

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis provides an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis fulfills Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks oversight obligations and satisfies rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Some effects may be negative; others may be positive.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development	_____
Renovation	____X____
Maintenance	____X____
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	_____

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has authority to provide for maintenance of facilities and development for public recreation on Department lands (23-2-101 MCA).

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940
dhabermann@state.mt.us

4. Name of project.

Cooney State Park Infrastructure Improvements

5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date: Spring 2004

Estimated completion date: Spring 2005

Current status of project design (% complete): 50%

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).

Carbon County Township 4S, Range 20E, Sections 34, 35, & 36.

7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:

residential 0 acres

industrial..... 0 acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/

Recreation 5 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian

Areas 0 acres

(d) Floodplain..... 0 acres

(e) Productive:

irrigated cropland 0 acres

dry cropland..... 0 acres

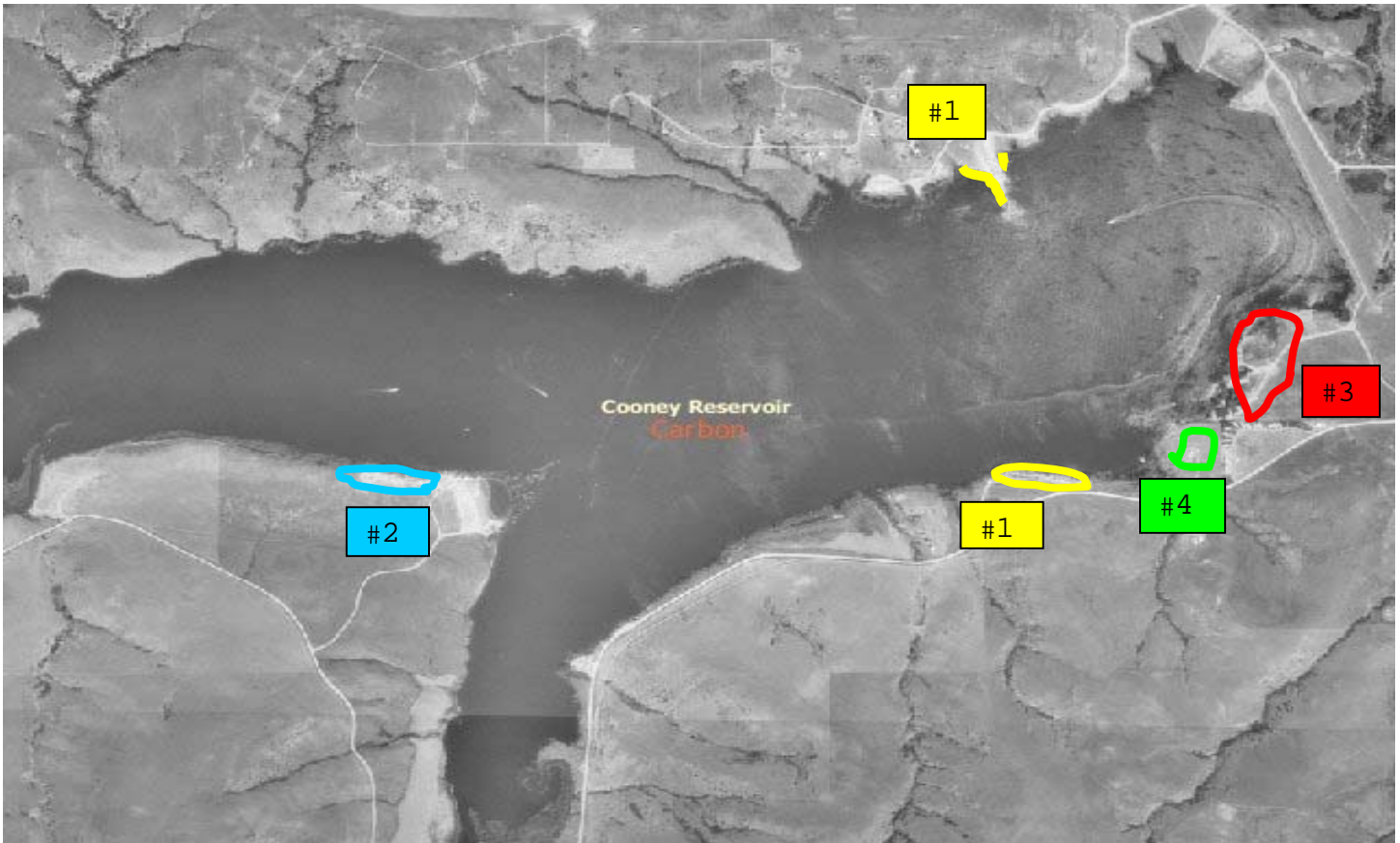
forestry 0 acres

rangeland 0 acres

other 0 acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

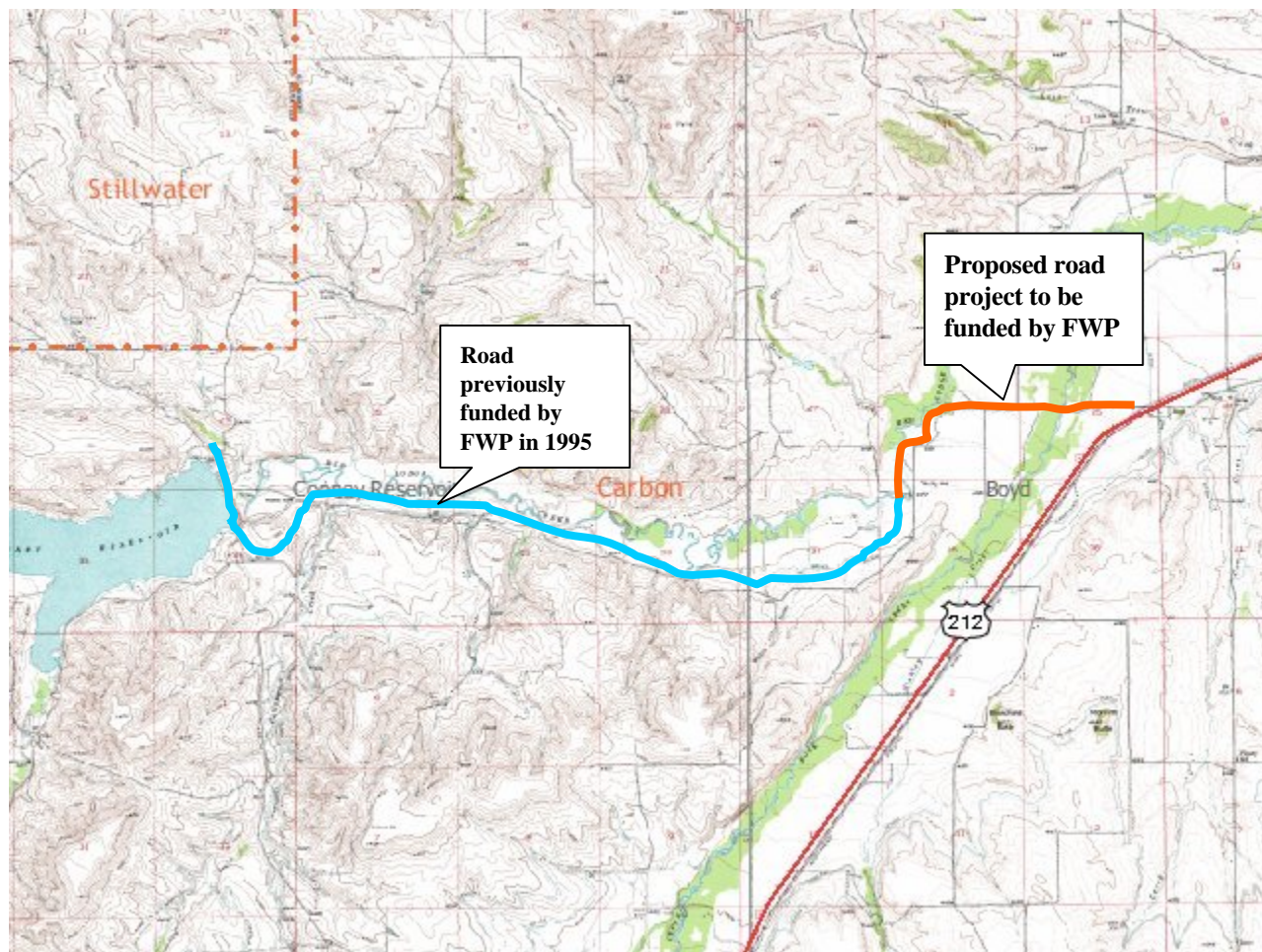
Proposed Park Element



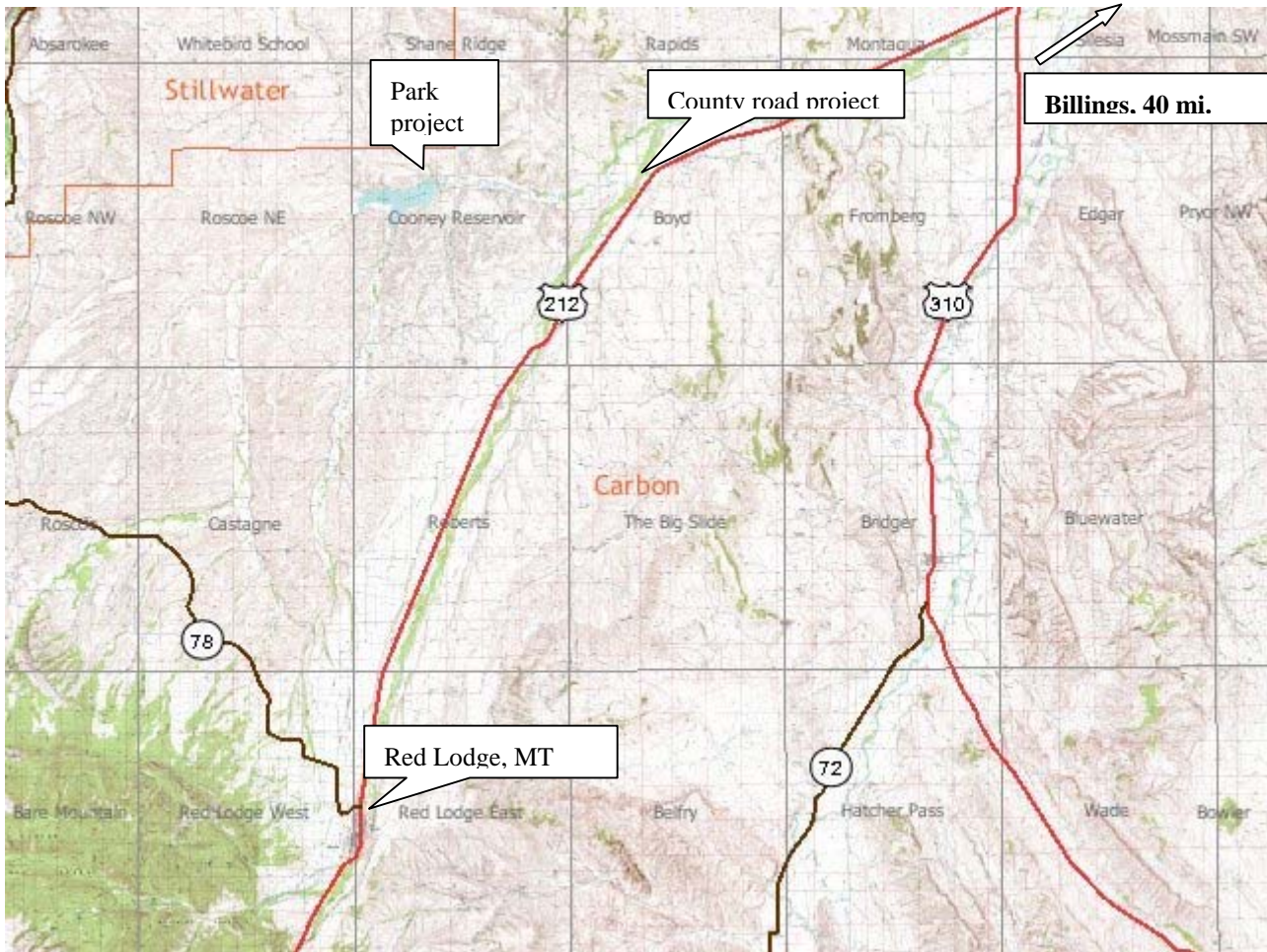
- #1 North Shore & Cottonwood: "rip rap" shore stabilization & boat ramp
- #2 Red Lodge Campground: tree planting & drip irrigation system

- #3 Marshall Cove: replacement ramp & latrine, renovate campsites, etc.
- #4 Admin. Area: maintenance shop/storage building

Proposed County Road Element



Project Location



9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

Cooney State Park, located in Carbon County near Joliet, MT, has an annual visitation of over 180,000 people, one of the most heavily used public recreation areas in the state. Much of its popularity is due to its proximity to the state's largest city (Billings is 48 miles to the northeast). Yellowstone County's population now exceeds 127,000 residents.

Recreational visitors from the other seven surrounding counties in this region also use Cooney State Park for a variety of recreational purposes. Cooney is the only major reservoir suitable for motorboat use between Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Missouri River near Helena) and Tongue River Reservoir (Tongue River north of Sheridan, WY). This high level of recreational use has increased the demand for improved facilities, both for the public's use, and for the park's administrative and maintenance responsibilities.

FWP anticipates the new free daily entrance to State Parks for all Montana residents being implemented in 2004, that day-use at Cooney State Park will significantly increase. This proposed project addresses this anticipated increased recreational use by improving and rehabilitating some of the main infrastructure and public facilities (boat ramps, parking areas, access roads, and latrines) at Cooney State Park. Additionally, a basic maintenance facility building is proposed at the existing administrative area to provide for the needs of maintenance equipment storage, repairs, and related activities associated with the daily maintenance of the public facilities at this high use state park.

North Shore Boat Ramp:

- The North Shore ramp is one of the primary launching points for boating access to Cooney Reservoir. The shoreline areas on either side of the existing concrete boat ramp require additional riprap (approximately 60 x 12 feet) to prevent the continued erosion and loss of the existing parking area. In addition, a portion of the concrete boat ramp will be injected grouted where cracking and voids have occurred to extend the useful life of the existing ramp. Without these protective measures, this primary motorboat launching facility and parking area is in jeopardy of continued degradation.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters. Currently we have 2 signs that display differing information.

Marshall Cove Boat Ramp and Parking Area:

- This site is another high-use motorboat launching facility for Cooney State Park. The existing ramp has reached the end of its' useful life. The ramp has cracked and buckled due to heavy use and erosion from wave and ice action. FWP proposes to replace the ramp at approximately the same location as a single-lane concrete ramp (16' wide), with additional space (8' wide) for the placement of the existing slide-in dock. This will allow for the easier and safer launching of boats from the Marshall Cove ramp.
- The Marshall Cove project will include the rehabilitation of the existing gravel road and graveled parking area associated with the ramp area. Regrading and gravelling these areas is intended to maintain current parking capacity at this high-use access location and to increase the public's safety.

and efficiency in launching motorboats.

- An existing wooden latrine in the Marshall Cove campground area is also proposed to be replaced with a new ADA accessible pre-cast concrete latrine. The replacement latrine would be relocated from its current location between two campsites to a location across the campground loop road, approximately 50 feet to the south.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters, as there is currently no information posted.

Administrative Area:

- The proposed work in this area includes relocating/rerouting the existing access road away from the lakeshore. This is planned to prevent the bank erosion related to the road that is occurring at other areas along the shoreline due to the increased reservoir elevation. This change will also provide for a more attractive and usable public walking and fishing area along the shoreline.
- A post and pole building to consolidate the current on-site storage sheds and create space to work on in-house maintenance projects is proposed for this area. This much need maintenance building would expand FWP's ability to do more timely and economic repairs on-site at the park. The two riding large lawnmowers, grader, tractor, and work utility vehicle currently are stored and maintained outside in the weather yearlong. The proposed maintenance building would improve employee efficiency and safety, while ultimately providing better service and maintenance support to the park's visitors. During the winter season, boats and other high-value maintenance equipment would be stored in this building, extending the life of equipment and increasing the on-site security of this costly equipment.
- Construct three-sided pole barn for vehicles, boats, & equipment and fenced area to store maintenance supplies and equipment. This would provide secure storage

Cottonwood Campground:

- The work in and near this popular campground includes the stabilization and rehabilitation of the existing riprap along east end of the campground area. This popular campground provides lakeside access for campers with motorboats and personalized watercraft.

Red Lodge Arm Campground and Boat Launch

- Proposed enhancements to this campground include the planting of native trees to provide shade, reduce wind, and improve the appearance in campsites. These campground improvements of Red Lodge Arm were completed in 2002. The site provides for visitor day use activities, including boat launching and fishing, as well as camping opportunities for both tents and RVs. Having trees around the campsites typically raises the quality of the visitors' experience. Additionally, the existing shoreline trees have died due to the recently elevated reservoir water level. Both the extreme hot temperatures and strong area winds can be addressed by the protection of trees. Trees also provide benefits to wildlife for food and shelter.
- A drip irrigation system to water the new trees would also be a part of the proposed Red Lodge Arm project. This system would utilize the existing water system, which was designed to accommodate this use. Overall, the installation of mechanical drip irrigation will reduce the daily and weekly maintenance costs associated with manually watering the trees. This will include the existing volunteer host pad that will increase our ability to recruit quality volunteers. Hosts contribute

significantly to the level of service we can provide visitors.

- Finally, a timer/sprayer would be installed on the existing fish cleaning station located at Red Lodge Arm to reduce maintenance costs, improve composting within the unit, and eliminate objectionable odors extending into the adjacent camping areas.
- Install sign at boat ramp to better inform motor-boaters, as there is currently no information posted.

Boyd-Cooney County Access Road - Carbon County/FWP Cooperative Project

- This project would also provide funding to Carbon County for desired safety improvements to the Boyd-Cooney County road, the primary access route to Cooney State Park. The proposed work includes the widening and resurfacing of approximately two miles of the existing county road as shown on the included drawing. In 1995, 6 miles of this county access road was widened and repaved via a cooperative project with Carbon County, funded by FWP. This route is the primary access road to the park and the proposed improvements would improve the safety conditions on the road and its long-term durability. This component of the current Cooney State Park project will widen and resurface the final section of the county road, providing safer travel conditions for all park visitors and local residents alike. Additionally, routine maintenance costs associated with this two-mile section of county road will likely be reduced for Carbon County for the foreseeable future. Carbon County will provide all design, oversight and bidding activities associated with this portion of the project. Although no official estimates are available of traffic levels on this road, based on park visitation, we estimate 65,000-75,000 vehicles travel this road, per year.

The improvements described above are desirable to meet public demand as outlined in the Parks Division's 2020 Vision Plan. The proposed projects will help maintain an appropriate standard of operations, as well as enhance resource protection such as the lake shoreline, public access at the boat ramps, and increase public safety and satisfaction at Cooney State Park.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

No Action Alternative: This alternative will result in continued operations to occur at a sub-standard level. Natural resources, existing boat ramps, and other facilities will continue to degrade, possibly costing a great deal more to rehabilitate at some point in the future. Visitor satisfaction will not be addressed. Also, without strengthening FWP's ability to perform in-site routine maintenance activities safely and effectively, FWP will continue to depend on regional crews (Billings-based) for maintenance support at Cooney State Park. This alternative will continue to inflate fuel consumption and vehicle maintenance costs, as well as delay the response time in dealing with routine maintenance repair needs, possibly reducing park safety for visitors.

Alternative #1 – proceed with any combination of the individual projects described above as “stand alone” projects.

Proposed Alternative: This alternative will positively affect the natural resources at the park, address exiting safety issues related to the Carbon County road providing the primary access to the park, and promote a positive public image of the park. Improvements to the boat launching areas, campground

improvements, and maintenance facility are anticipated to serve the park and it's high public visitation numbers far into the future.

11. Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits		
Agency Name: Army Corps of Engineers SHPO	Permit: 404 Archeological Clearance	Date Filed: Spring 2004 Spring 2004

(b) Funding: \$389,850	
Agency Name: FWP Federal	Funding Amount: \$86,757 State Special (for park projects) \$60,000 Highway Fuel Tax (for county road) Total: \$146,757 \$183,093 Federal W-B (for park projects) \$60,000 Federal W-B (for county road) Total: \$243,093

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name:	Type of Responsibility:

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:

- State Historic Preservation Office

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:

Steve Brown, Manager
Cooney State Park
P.O. Box 254
Joliet, MT 59041
(406) 445-2326

Doug Habermann, Regional Manager
FWP, Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2954

14. Date submitted: February 9, 2004

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

1d. The riprap portions of this project is designed to reduce wave-action erosion occurring at/near the existing boat ramp structures. .

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

2a. There may be a minimal amount of increased dust in the air temporarily during the construction phase of the project(s).

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

3. WATER	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:		X				3n

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

3b. When the administrative road is relocated to the proposed new location farther from the lakeshore, there will likely be a reduction in run-off into the lake from that road. The proposed new road location will provide a considerable amount of native grass and vegetation area between it and the lake, as well as undisturbed soils. The already developed Carbon County access road that is to be widened and resurfaced exists, and no changes in runoff should occur.

3n. With the planned stabilization of shoreline, there will likely be a decrease in the amount of dissolved sediment into Cooney Reservoir, thus creating a more desirable habitat for existing fish populations, and improving overall appearance of the water. .

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		x				4a/b
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				4a/b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		x				
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

4a/b. With the tree planting as proposed, FWP would be increasing the number and variety of plant species. The species of trees and/or shrubs that will be planted will be native to this area, or predetermined to be suitable for this environment. FWP will re-vegetate all disturbed soils with native grasses to prevent erosion and run-off. There are no plans to introduce any other types of vegetation.

4c. The (5) primary areas of Cooney State Park that will be affected by this project have never been identified as supporting known threatened or endangered species.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b/c
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species?		X				5b/c
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

5b/c. With the tree plantings that are proposed, FWP hopes to increase habitat that the bird species present can utilize.

5f. The areas to be affected by this project have never been identified as supporting threatened or endangered species.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

6a. There will be an increased level of noise during the construction phases of the various on-site projects. FWP will, however, limit construction to regular business hours, so that noise will not disturb adjacent residents and park visitors during unusual times. Park visitors will not be affected, as noise levels will likely be lower than that which is created by motorboats on the lake. In addition, the proposed trees that will be planted in the campground areas are intended to reduce the transmission of noise beyond the campgrounds as they mature.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				7a
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			7f
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

7a: Most of the proposed improvements will take place on FWP owned or managed lands, therefore, there will be no other agency affected. FWP desires to increase the productivity and efficiency of the Cooney State Park maintenance staff and equipment with the addition of the proposed storage facilities. FWP desires to increase the capacity and efficiency of the Marshall Cove public boat ramp area via the proposed improvements to that area. The proposed Carbon County road project will not involve with any other lands beyond that which is currently within the existing county right-of-way and under county control.

7f. There will be a temporary increase in the number of construction/commercial vehicles accessing the site during the construction period. The overall traffic increase associated with this project will not be a significant increase over current conditions.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:						

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			9e
f. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

9e. There will be a temporary increase in the number of construction/commercial vehicles during the construction period. The overall traffic increases associated with this project will not be a significant increase over current conditions. The improved county road project will significantly improve public safety conditions on the main public access route to Cooney State Park.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:		X				10a
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				10b
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Increased used of any energy source?			X			10d
e. Other.						
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.						
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	The county road will continue to be maintained exclusively by Carbon County. The other projects will likely reduce maintenance costs. .					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

10a: The proposed actions are a proactive response to positively affect the existing recreational facilities at this highly visited state park.

10b: It is anticipated that the proposed improvements will increase visitor satisfaction with Cooney State Park. Over time it is possible that revenue generated through increased camping and non-resident day-use fees will reflect this.

10d: There will likely be an increase in the use of electricity at the site. The anticipated increase in electrical utility usage is well within the regular scope of local utility companies' production and distribution of services.

10g. Since most of the proposed improvements are to existing facilities at Cooney Reservoir State Park, very little additional maintenance is expected. The proposed maintenance facility will require periodic maintenance of approximately \$200-300 per year. The proper storage of maintenance equipment is anticipated to significantly offset this cost through prolonged equipment life. Overall, it is anticipated that maintenance costs for Cooney Reservoir State Park will be generally be neutral, with the exception of on-going inflationary costs.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

11c. The proposed infrastructure improvements for the Park will significantly improve the quality of recreational the recreational experience for the park visitor. The Tourism Report is attached.??

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

12a. The proposed project areas have not been identified as having historical, archeological, or anthropological significant sites in the areas that will be affected. The Carbon County road project will take place on an existing paved road within the existing Carbon County road right-of-way.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.	US Army Corps of Engineers 404					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

13a. As discussed in earlier sections of this document, the cumulative effects of this project will have a significant positive affect on recreational settings, visitor satisfaction and safety, and effectiveness of maintenance and management.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.
Overall, this project will provide substantial positive benefits by addressing a number of maintenance needs at Cooney State Park. These will include improved visitor safety in getting to and within the park; winter season storage of expensive and valuable boats, vehicles, and maintenance equipment; increased visitor enjoyment due to improved boating, day use and camping facilities and infrastructure.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO X

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

This EA is adequate to review the potential environmental impacts and there are no potentially significant adverse impacts or degradation of the environment anticipated.

3. Describe the public involvement for this project.

Written public comments will be accepted for 30 days. Notices of this proposal will be published in the Billings, Joliet and Helena newspapers as well as posted on the state electronic bulletin board.

4. What was the duration of the public comment period?

30 days. Comments are welcome from February 9, 2004 through March 9, 2004.